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Sony AIT-5 Backup Tape System Compared with LTO-3 Midrange Format by [Rob Miller](#)

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Nowadays, the I.T managers have to ensure that their business clients and stake holders are provided instant access to the corporate data. When your organization is operating in globalized business world, fast and uninterrupted data access become imperative. A smart strategy to overcome the interruptions caused by hardware failure, human errors and viruses is critically important. The best strategy that has been adopted by the successful businesses all across the globe is backup storage. It provides your business a reliable source to recover from the disastrous data loss.

Due to the intense competition, midrange & small companies are also backing up their vital data assets.

Sony's AIT5 system outperforms other small & midrange tape solutions. It can be integrated with a vast range of high end workstations, mission critical midrange systems and client/server environments. This backup system offers you rewritable and W.O.R.M (write once, read many) tapes. Sony's SDX5-400C, AIT5 tape allows reliable data storage/retrieval for up to 30 years. SDX5-400W features WORM mechanism and satisfies the stringent demands of long term security. Recording capacity of AIT5 media tape, thanks to the intelligent media formulation, has been increased to native 400 GB. This flexible Sony AIT5 solution can be integrated to the host system with external and internal configuration. The drives are designed for super fast data searching (2700 Mbps) and efficiently stream data files at uncompressed 24 MB/second.

We will look at the storage capacity, performance and efficiency of AIT-5 with its close rival LTO3 format. With an impressive 67% smaller size, Sony AIT5 tape is a great attraction to the organizations struggling with small shelf space. Sony is also a world-famous LTO tape brand. The Sony's LTO3 tape is LTX400G. Native capacity of this tape is also 400GB. The AIT 5 drives are more advantageous with their exceptional 2.6:1 data compression. So the SMB customers can reliably house an enormous 1.04TB data on this tiny AIT5 cartridge.

LTO 3 drives double the performance and capacity with their 2 to 1 data compression. Therefore, 800GB data can be recorded on LTO ultrium 3 tape. Data transfer speed of LTO3 drives is faster than AIT-5. The uncompressed speed for AIT5 is 24MB/sec and that of LTO3 drive is 80 Mbps. To improve the AIT5 tape's durability & media life, Sony has applied a protective DLC (Diamond like carbon) coating. This innovative media formulation ensures tape stability and seamless movement across the drive head during high duty cycles. As a result, the media deterioration reduces and the AIT5 drives achieve the highest level of reliability with 400,000 hrs. (Mean time between failures).

Sony AIT5 customers can use other tapes as well including AIT3, AIT4 & AIT-3Ex for data reading and writing. So, up-gradation won't require huge investment and exploding data volumes can be easily managed with fewer tapes. Dust protective bezels have been introduced to help maximize the AIT-5 drives' working life and ensure uninterrupted performance. So the business enterprises with shrinking budgets and the stiff challenges of long term data security can rely on this Sony's efficient AIT5 system.

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